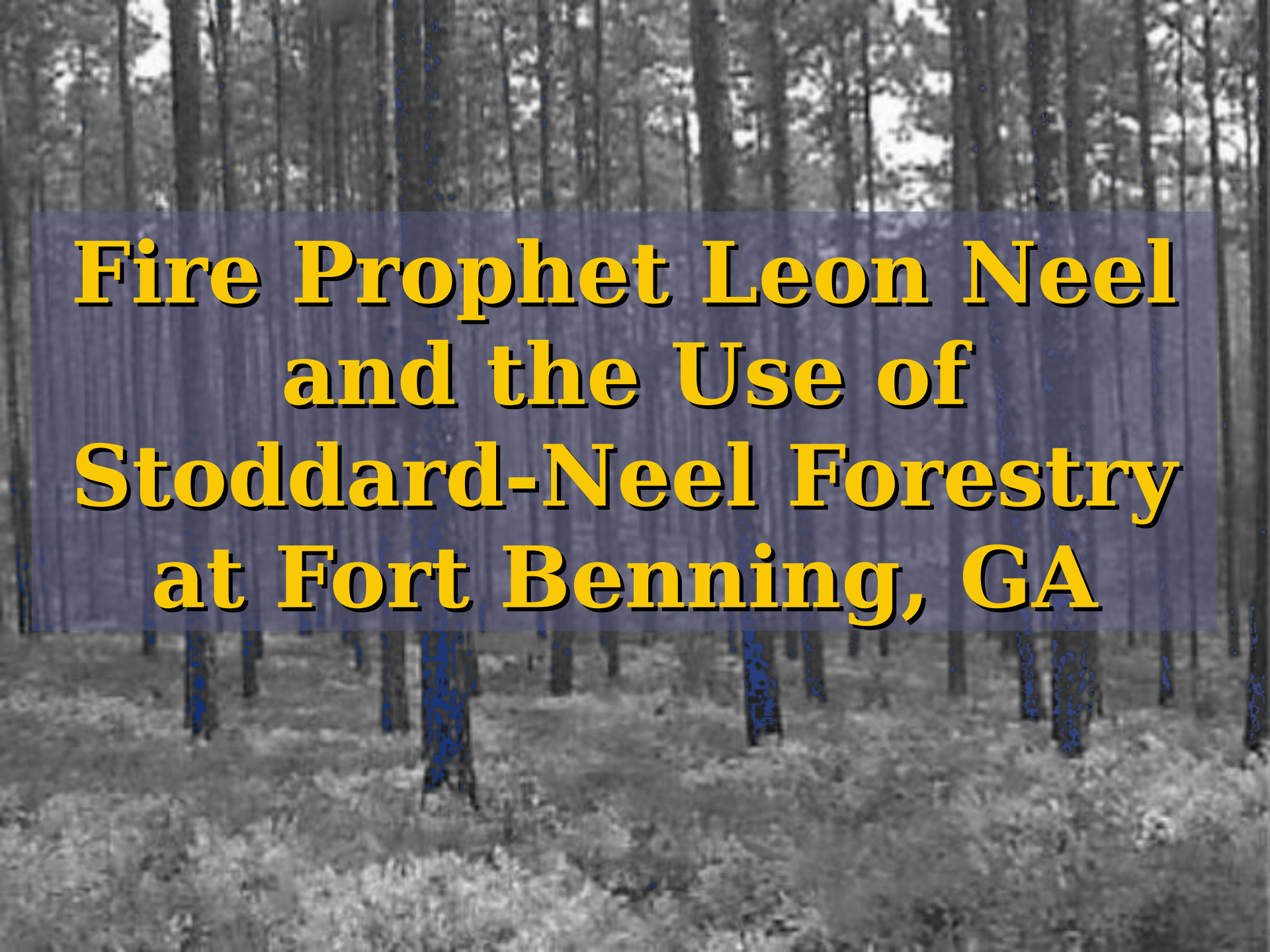
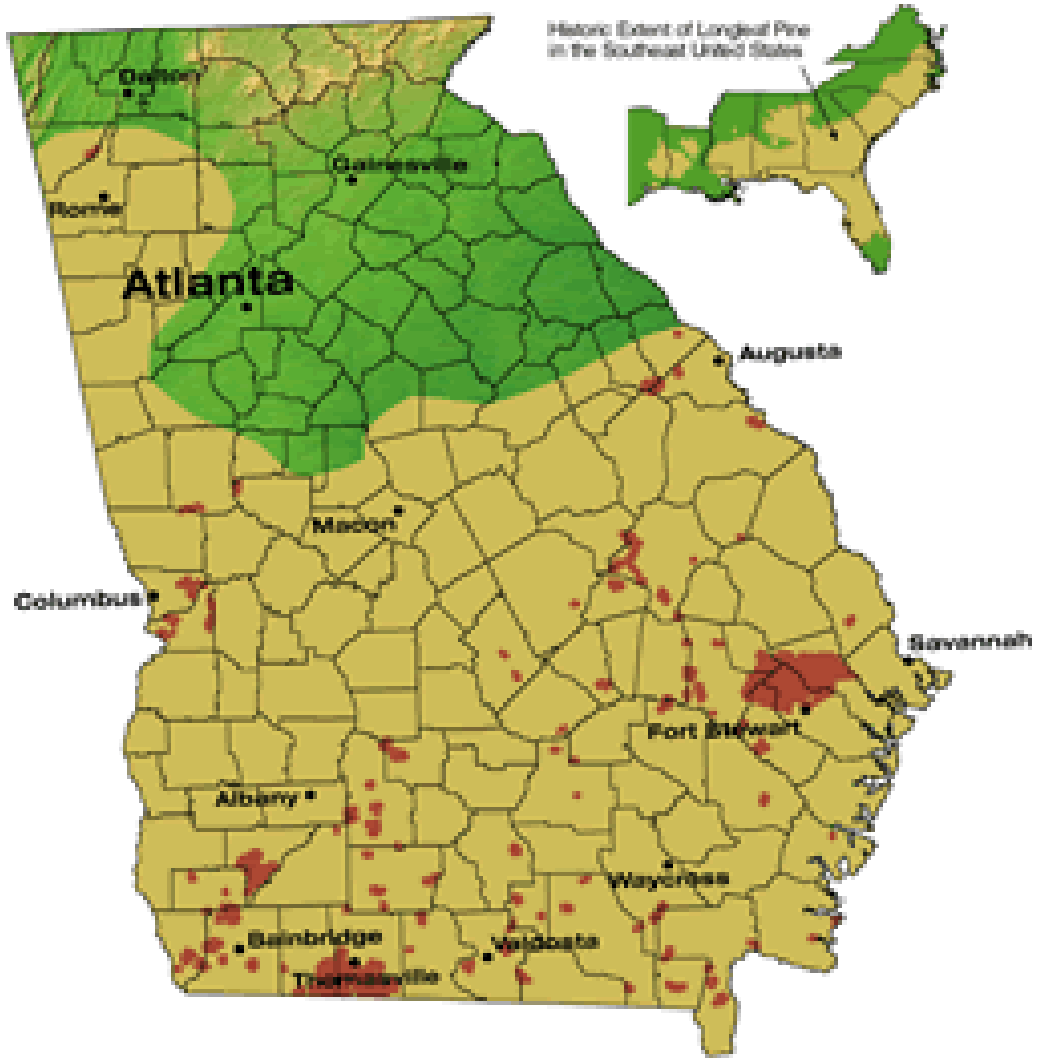
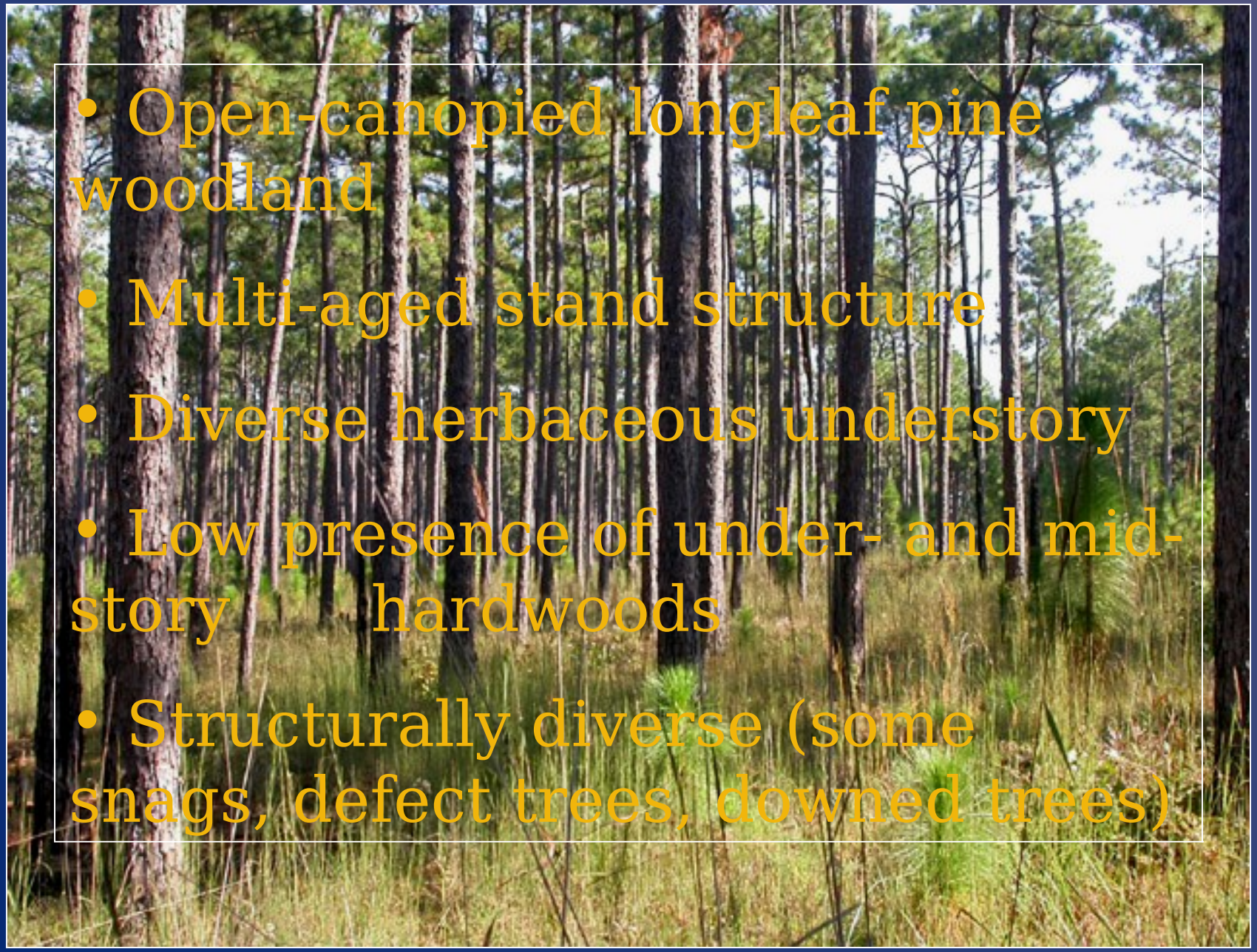


Fire Prophet Leon Neel and the Use of Stoddard-Neel Forestry at Fort Benning, GA

Longleaf Pine in Georgia





- Open-canopied longleaf pine woodland
- Multi-aged stand structure
- Diverse herbaceous understory
- Low presence of under- and mid-story hardwoods
- Structurally diverse (some snags, defect trees, downed trees)

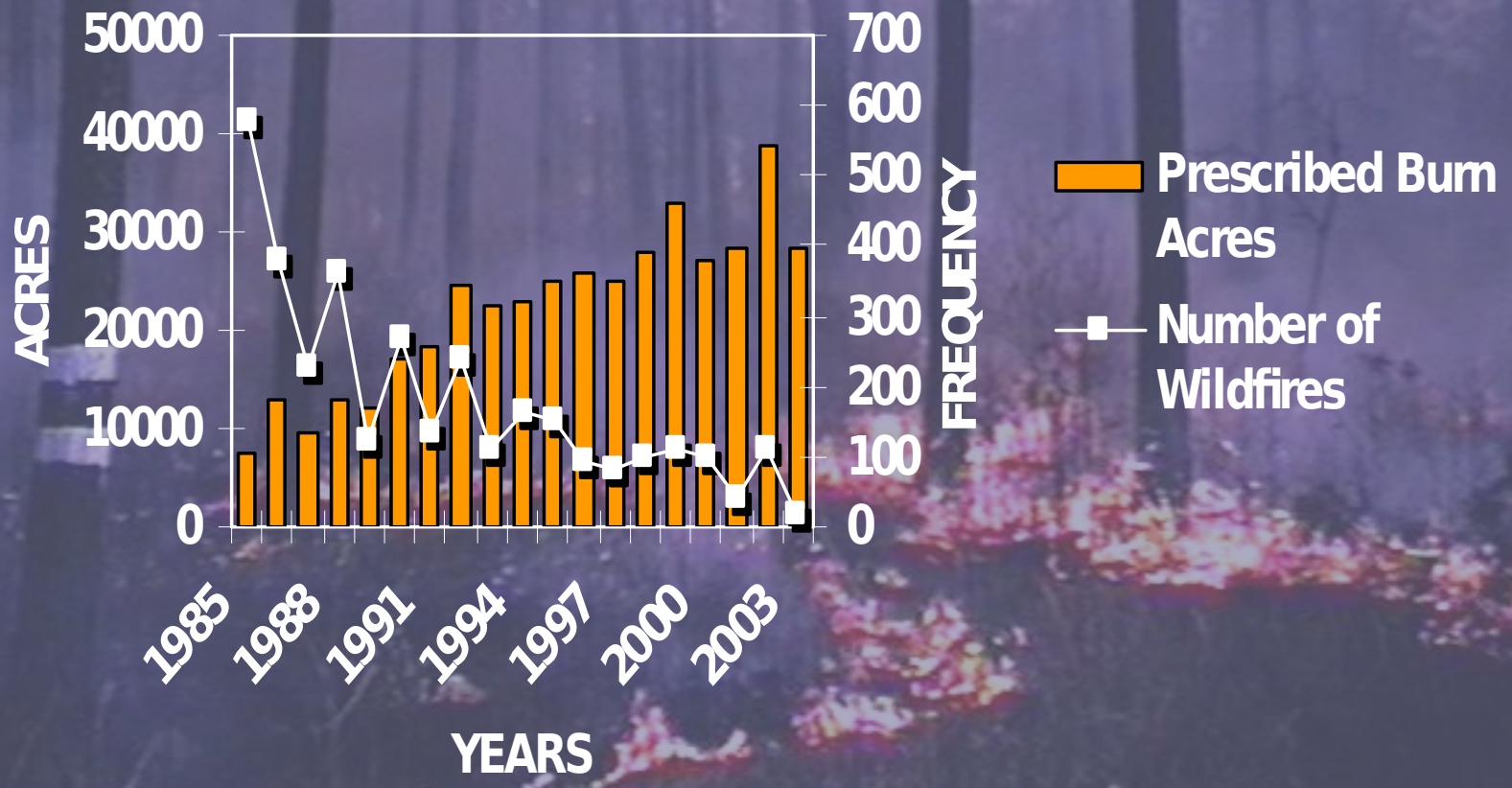
Managed disturbance should mimic natural disturbance

Pow!
• Lightning or wind throw resulted in single-tree mortality and creation of canopy gaps for regeneration
• Low-intensity ground fire with frequent return interval (2-10 yrs) promoted longleaf pine dominance and maintained diverse herbaceous understory
FIRE

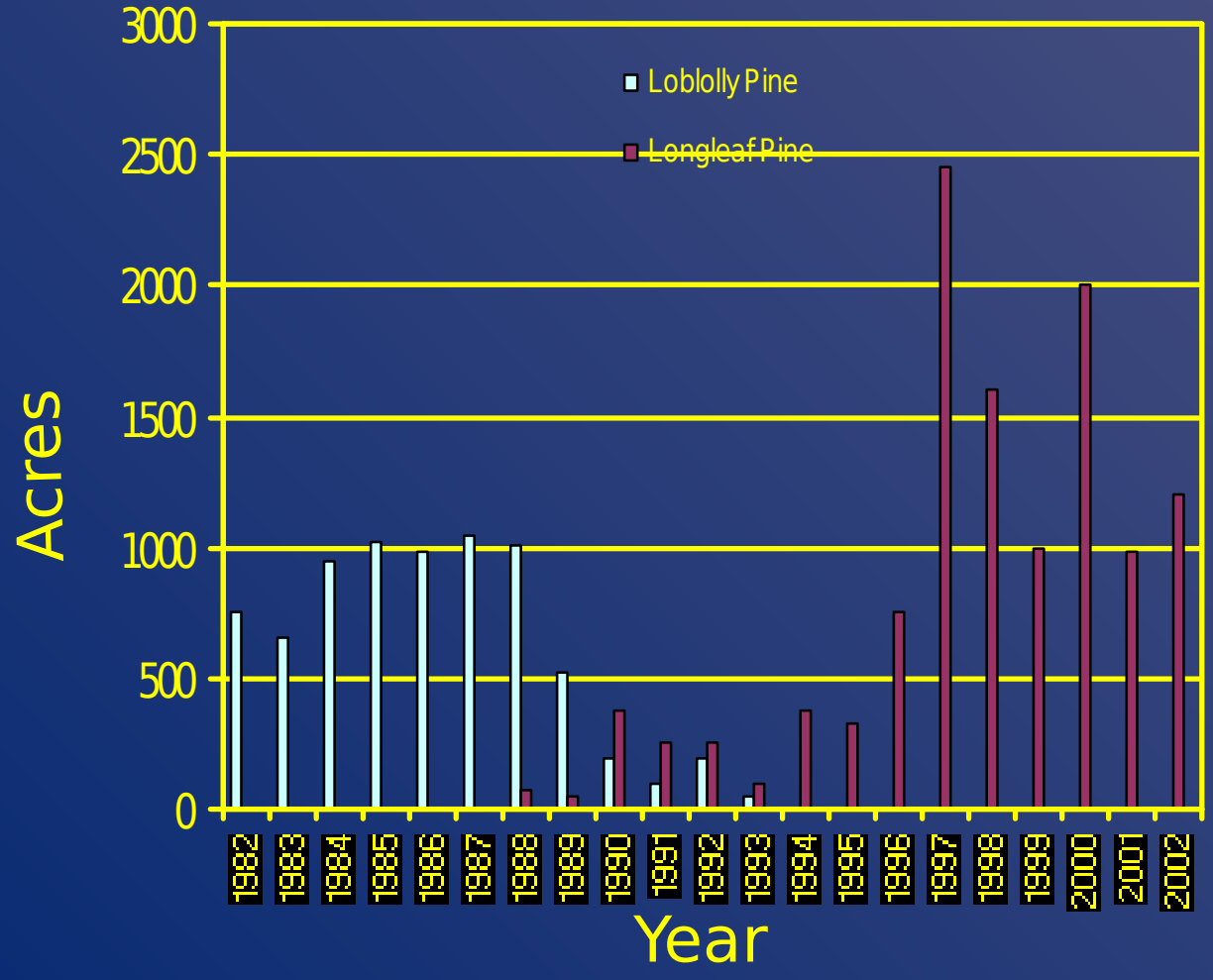
Single-tree selection harvesting

- Tree selection inherently conservative – trees removed in order to improve stand condition
- No quantitative guidelines for timber marking
- Longleaf pine preferentially retained when harvesting mixed pine stands
- Retain some defect trees for structural diversity

PRESCRIBED BURN ACRES AND NUMBER OF WILDFIRES FROM FY85 - FY03



Acres reforested in longleaf v. loblolly (FY82-FY02)



Central Tenets of Stoddard-Neel Appro